

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 1, 4 and 12-14 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 2 and 3. Claim 14 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 1. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on March 3, 2004 with the application. Applicants request acknowledgement of receipt and consideration of the references listed therein.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14 and 15, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As claim 14 is rewritten in independent form, claim 14 and dependent claim 15 are in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,423,117 to Okada et al. (Okada). As claims 2 and 3 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 13 is respectfully traversed.

Okada fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, Okada fails to disclose an electromagnetic switch for a starter, comprising a bobbin . . . a cover mounted on the terminal, wherein the terminal passes through the cover in the axial direction, wherein the bobbin has a first flange and a second flange, the first flange has a terminal holder that protrudes from the first flange in the axial

direction and defines a slot on the axial end surface to receive the first end of the terminal, and the terminal holder provides longitudinal walls protruding in the axial direction on both sides of the slot, the longitudinal walls restricting the plate-like terminal from moving in its thickness direction.

Okada discloses a "rod-like coil terminal 11" fixedly erected on the flange 10b at the upper end of the bobbin 10 (col. 2, lines 61-63). Thus, Okada fails to disclose a "plate-like terminal" as recited in the rejected claims.

The rod-like coil terminals 11 are fixedly fitted into terminal anchor holes 22 which are provided on one flange 10b of the bobbin 10 (col. 3, lines 38-42). The rod-like coil terminals 11 are covered with a cover member 13 of an electrically insulating material like rubber or synthetic resin. Each of the sealing cover members 13 is formed of a short tubular shape having its outer periphery tapered toward one end to be located on the outer side when fitted on the rod-like coil terminal 11 (col. 3, lines 52-60).

Thus, Okada does not disclose a terminal holder that protrudes from the first flange in the axial direction and defines a slot and an axial end surface to receive the first end of the terminal. Furthermore, Okada fails to disclose that the terminal holder provides longitudinal walls protruding in the axial direction on both sides of the slot. As clearly indicated in Okada, both the rod-like coil terminals and the terminal anchor holes are circular or tubular in shape and therefore cannot be considered to disclose walls on both sides of the slot.

Furthermore, as recited in the amended claims, the longitudinal walls restrict the plate-like terminal from moving in its thickness direction. As both the rod-like coil terminals 11 and terminal anchor holes 22 are circular in shape, there is no thickness direction to be determined from such a structure. Accordingly, Okada fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5, 7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,423,117 to Okada et al. (Okada). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 7 and 9-11 are allowable for their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 7 and 9-11 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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